

In particular, I share in all of Minnesota's pride in 8th Grader Catherine Cojocar of Holy Spirit Catholic School in Rochester, Minnesota, who will be participating in the National Spelling Bee for the second year in a row.

I also wish to commend the winners of the Central Minnesota Regional Spelling Bee who competed amongst 56 students in grades 5 to 8 from 34 different school districts. These students earned a spot at the State Bee: Ali Fuller of Chisago Lakes, Christina Huling of Annandale, Matt Schultz of St. Michael-Albertville, and Peter Doyle of Rocori. The skill these young men and women showed is truly awe-inspiring. They are a real example for us all.

#### HONORING THE LONE STAR COLLEGE SYSTEM UNIVERSITY CENTER ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 17, 2008*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today very proud to honor and congratulate the Lone Star College System University Center in The Woodlands, Texas, on its 10th anniversary.

The University Center broke ground in June of 1996 under the theme of "common ground for the common good." Partner universities, which include: Prairie View A&M University, Sam Houston State University, Texas A&M University, Texas Southern University, University of Houston and University of Houston-Downtown, began offering courses in September of 1997, and facilities were opened in January of the next year. Since that time, the University Center has indeed honored the vision of providing multi-level quality higher education instruction to a diverse population of citizens from north Houston, north Harris and Montgomery counties.

Over the past decade, the Center has experienced phenomenal growth. Student enrollment and the number of courses offered has grown four-fold. In 1997, the Center served 374 students in 65 classes. Today, over 2,300 students participate in 255 classes. Fifty-two thousand students have been served in ten years with no signs that growth will stop.

This unique partnership between the six Texas universities and the five colleges of the Lone Star College System has created amazing educational opportunities for the students of the region. Through this partnership, students at the University Center can complete baccalaureate degrees, master's degrees and continuing professional studies in over 65 programs without having to drive long distances. Having such programs right in their own backyard is an opportunity that the enrollment numbers clearly tell us is just too good to pass up.

The University Center is not only an asset to our community now, but the sky is the limit for its future impact. By offering convenient access to top quality instructors and innovative teaching, the opportunity for students to achieve their higher education goals in my district has never been so strong.

I consistently hear from employers that University Center students take their outstanding

educations and make a mark in the workplace. Many careers have been started or enhanced through this unique educational resource. As the University Center moves beyond its first decade, the best is truly yet to come.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to represent the University Center in the U.S. House of Representatives, and I urge you to join me in congratulating the Lone Star College System—University Center on this momentous occasion.

#### RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE TREATY ROOM AND THE CROSSROADS OF DESTINY EXHIBIT AT THE GARST MUSEUM IN GREENVILLE, OHIO

##### HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 17, 2008*

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the grand opening of the Treaty Room and the Crossroads of Destiny Exhibit at the Garst Museum in Greenville, Ohio.

One of most significant historical moments in Darke County was the signing of the Treaty of Greene Ville, which ended forty years of conflict over the upper Ohio Valley and opened the door for western settlement, leading to Ohio's statehood. This exhibit tells the story of life on the frontier: war, resolution, loss, progress and the growth of a nation.

While Darke County is no longer the Western edge of the United States, its citizens retain the finest qualities of frontier settlers: generous hearts, a zeal for public service and the passionate patriotism that General Anthony Wayne, General William Henry Harrison, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark exhibited more than two centuries ago.

It is my pleasure to congratulate The Garst Museum, the Darke County Historical Society and the citizens of Darke County on the grand opening of this new exhibit.

#### CONGRATULATING ST. MARY OF VERNON ON THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 17, 2008*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 30th Anniversary of St. Mary of Vernon, a well-established church located in the 10th district of Illinois.

In 1978, Father John Finnegan went to Lake County to establish a new parish in the Vernon Hills area. The first Mass took place on August 15, 1978, in a rented space at Hawthorn Jr. High School. Three years later, in 1981, the church moved into their new Worship Center which doubled as a building for Mass as well as for social and community activities. In December of 2005, the church moved into a new church building, fulfilling their dream. Despite the acquisition, the congregation takes pride in the fact that it is the people inside the church's walls that make St. Mary of Vernon what it is.

The parishioners of St. Mary of Vernon are dedicated to the Catholic education for all

ages. Their goal is for all activities and gatherings to have a spiritual dimension and regular participation in these programs helps develop a community within the church.

Going beyond themselves, St. Mary of Vernon believes in serving the needs of their surrounding community. Through outreach programs, people feel welcome in the church at all times. To maximize their impact, they also partner up with other congregations and community efforts.

This year we pause to celebrate the church's 30th Anniversary and their impact on our community. I commend St. Mary's for their accomplishments over the years and know they will continue to do great things in the years to come.

#### IN HONOR OF GERRET AND TATIANA COPELAND

##### HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 17, 2008*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Gerret and Tatiana Copeland for their momentous gift to Christiana Care Health System's Center for Heart and Vascular Health. The Copelands' gift will enable Christiana Care to purchase a Stereotaxis remote navigation system that can more effectively target problem areas in the heart while still preserving healthy tissue, thereby providing the people of Delaware with the best treatment available for a potentially fatal disorder.

Stereotaxis is used to treat Atrial Fibrillation, a common heart condition that occurs when the heart rhythm becomes irregular, possibly leading to blood clots and eventual stroke. The current procedure—which involves inserting a catheter through the artery, identifying the areas of the heart that trigger the irregular heartbeat, and destroying those areas—puts healthy tissue in the heart at risk, is time consuming, and has only a 50 percent success rate. The Stereotaxis equipment, which will be housed in a new surgical suite named for Gerret and Tatiana, uses computer technology to create three-dimensional images of the heart and veins, allowing the cardiologist to direct a magnetic catheter with greater precision and less chance of damaging the patient's heart. These features should increase procedure success rates to as high as 90 percent. In addition, the Stereotaxis procedure is shorter than the traditional procedure; thus, the patient should require less sedation, less post-surgery medication, and recover at a faster rate. This type of cutting-edge equipment is available in only 100 hospitals worldwide.

The Copelands are no strangers to philanthropy: they have been generously supporting various causes in Delaware for many years, most notably the arts. Their gift to Christiana Care, however, is very personal. In 2006, following a cardiac catheterization, Gerret underwent heart bypass surgery to treat blockage in six of his arteries. Due to the extraordinary skill of the dedicated team of doctors at Christiana Care, Gerret has since made a full recovery. He and Tatiana hope that their donation will help others benefit from the same exceptional care.